

Application Serial No.: 10/790,003
Reply to Office Action dated August 13, 2004

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 are presently active in this case, Claim 1 having been amended and Claims 3 and 4 having been added by way of the present Amendment.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Fuchisawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,091,928). For the reasons discussed below, the Applicant requests the withdrawal of the anticipatory rejection.

In the Office Action, the Fuchisawa et al. reference is indicated as anticipating each of Claims 1 and 2. However, the Applicants note that a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claims is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). As will be demonstrated below, the Fuchisawa et al. reference clearly does not meet each and every limitation of the independent Claim 1.

Claim 1 of the present application recites a paper feeding and cutting method for a rolled transfer paper, comprising the steps of sliding a tray out of an image forming apparatus, where the tray includes a paper loading unit, a paper feeding device, and paper cutting device, loading a new rolled transfer paper in the paper loading unit, feeding the rolled transfer paper using the paper feeding device such that a leading edge of the rolled transfer paper is discharged from a discharging outlet of the tray, and cutting the discharged tip portion of the rolled transfer paper using the paper cutting device before returning the tray to the image forming apparatus. The Applicant submits that the Fuchisawa et al. reference

does not disclose all of the steps recited in Claim 1 of the present application.

The Fuchisawa et al. reference describes a rolled paper supply device for image forming apparatuses. The Fuchisawa et al. reference is concerned with a situation in which the recording paper runs out during the image forming process. The Fuchisawa et al. reference describes a device where when the length of a piece of the remaining recording paper left last is longer than the first reference length possible to feed the paper in the inside and outside of a roll unit (RU), the paper is delivered, and when the length of the remaining piece is slightly shorter than the first reference length, the front end of the remaining piece is projected to the outside of the roll unit (RU), and when the length of the remaining piece is shorter than the second reference length impossible to feed the paper in the inside of the roll unit (RU), the remaining piece is dropped inside of the roll unit (RU) by a reverse feeding, thereby, a removal of the remaining piece is facilitated. Thus, the Fuchisawa et al. reference indicates that the removal of the remaining piece may always be performed well.

Claim 1 of the present application recites a paper feeding and cutting method for a rolled transfer paper, comprising the steps of sliding a tray out of an image forming apparatus, loading a new rolled transfer paper in the paper loading unit, feeding the rolled transfer paper using the paper feeding device such that a leading edge of the rolled transfer paper is discharged from a discharging outlet of the tray, and cutting the discharged tip portion of the rolled transfer paper using the paper cutting device *before returning the tray to the image forming apparatus.* (See paragraphs 0043-0046 of the specification.) Thus, the leading edge of the roller transfer paper can be trimmed to remove a potentially uneven or slanted leading edge before the tray is returned to the image forming apparatus for

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conveyance of the paper therein. The Applicant submits that the Fuchisawa et al. reference does not disclose cutting the discharged tip portion of the rolled transfer paper using the paper cutting device before returning the tray to the image forming apparatus, as recited in Claim 1 of the present application. As noted above, the Fuchisawa et al. reference discusses the cutting of the paper while the roll unit is within the image forming apparatus, and more specifically focuses on the cutting of the paper when the roll has run out in order to try to ensure that the last remaining piece of paper can be removed from the image forming device. The Fuchisawa et al. reference does not discuss cutting of the paper before the roll unit is returned to the image forming apparatus.

Accordingly, the Applicant submits that the Fuchisawa et al. reference does not disclose all of the steps recited in Claim 1, and therefore the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the anticipation rejection of Claim 1.

Claims 2 and 3 are considered allowable for the reasons advanced for Claim 1 from which they depend. These claims are further considered allowable as they recite other features of the invention that are neither disclosed, taught, nor suggested by the applied references when those features are considered within the context of Claim 1.

Newly added Claim 4 is considered allowable as it recites features of the invention that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the references of record. For example, Claim 4 advantageously recites a paper feeding and cutting method for a rolled transfer paper, comprising, among other steps, the steps of sliding a tray out of an image forming apparatus, where the tray includes a paper feeding device and a manually-operated feed switch, loading a new rolled transfer paper in the paper loading unit, and feeding the rolled transfer paper

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using the paper feeding device actuated via the manually-operated feed switch such that a leading edge of the rolled transfer paper is discharged from a discharging outlet of the tray. (See, e.g., 0043-0046 of the specification.) Accordingly, the Applicant submits that Claim 4 is allowable.

Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Attorney of Record

Christopher D. Ward
Registration No. 41,367

Customer Number

22850

Tel. (703) 413-3000
Fax. (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 10/01)

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